

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JIDDA 00648 291110Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 291000Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0010

S E C R E T JIDDA 0648

STADIS //////////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

FOR UNDERSECRETARY SISCO FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSAC, SA, US

SUBJECT: SAUDI VISA FOR COLUMNIST JOSEPH KRAFT

REF: STATE 7302

1. IN A LONG CONVERSATION WITH PRINCE FAHD YESTERDAY (JAN 27) HE ASKED IF I WERE NOT PLEASED WITH THE SMOOTH WAY IN WHICH THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT (READ PRINCE FAHD) HAD HANDLED ENTRY OF AMERICAN JEWS INTO THE COUNTRY. HE SAID THAT SAUDI LAWS AND REGULATIONS HAD NOT CHANGED BUT THE SAG WAS SHOWING MORE FLEXIBILITY.

2. I TOLD HIM I WAS INDEED PLEASED AND WAS GRATEFUL TO HIM FOR HIS EFFORTS. AS FAR AS I KNEW THERE REMAINED ONLY THE OUTSTANDING CASE OF JOSEPH KRAFT. I REMINDED HIM THAT KRAFT HAD VISITED ALL OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES; HIS ARTICLES HAD BEEN OBJECTIVE AND I HAD STRONGLY RECOMMENDED HIS ENTRY BEFORE.

3. FAHD SAID THAT THE SAUDI EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAD MADE AN ISSUE OF THE CASE AND HE SUGGESTED THAT THE NEXT TIME KRAFT IS IN AN ARAB COUNTRY HE GET HIS VISA THERE. I SAID I DID NOT THINK IT WAS A GREAT ISSUE TO MR. KRAFT WHERE HE WOULD GET HIS VISA.

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4. ALTHOUGH I AM CONVINCED THAT HE WILL BE ALLOWED

TO COME TO SAUDI ARABIA, GIVEN THE HISTORY OF THE
CASE I SHOULD HATE TO TELL KRAFT THE ISSUE HAS BEEN
DEFINITELY SETTLED. HOWEVER, AS KRAFT SURELY NEEDS
TO MAKE HIS OWN PLANS, I WOULD SUGGEST THAT YOU TELL
HIM EXACTLY WHAT I HAVE DONE BUT THAT I CAN NOT RPT
NOT GUARANTEE ANYTHING.

5. IS KRAFT PLANNING A TRIP? IF SO, THE SOONER THE
BETTER. THE CONVERSATION WILL BE FRESH: SAHD' AND
FAHD SHOULD BE IN THE COUNTRY AT LEAST
UNTIL JUNE. I WOULD BE PLEASED TO HAVE KRAFT STAY
WITH US WHEN HE IS IN JIDDA.
AKINS

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NNN

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